

Georgia Students Deserve Access to AP African American Studies

All students should have access to truthful curricula that reflect and uplift the experiences and contributions of diverse communities. IDRA has long supported ethnic studies as one way to provide this access. Because of our work in this area, we supported Georgia state leaders' decision to offer the Advanced Placement African American Studies course pilot two years ago.

The Problem

Upon direction from State Superintendent Woods, the State Board of Education declined to vote to include AP African American Studies in the state-approved course catalog for the 2024-25 school year. Without being in the catalog, the course cannot receive state funding or support. **Unlike every other AP course**, the Superintendent wants local districts to instead use the course code for a class that does not confer the same credit: Introduction to African American Studies.

Introduction to African American Studies is a different course than AP African American Studies with different requirements and benefits. This decision means most Georgia students will be blocked from taking AP African American Studies this year.

The decision deprives students of the opportunity to take a college-level course that reflects the societal contributions of African Americans and can lead to college credit.

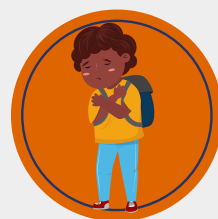
Here is why that decision must be reversed.



Students will not receive sufficient course credit for their transcripts and GPAs.



Students will be unprepared for the state AP African American Studies exam.



Black students will be disproportionately impacted.



Students wishing to take AP African American Studies will be ignored.

Removing this AP African American Studies with no good rationale, and at the last minute, is a breach of the trust that students should be able to have in their education leaders. This decision should be reversed immediately.

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“Introduction to African American Studies” is not comparable “AP African American Studies.”

Some state leaders want these courses to be treated as identical.

They are not even close!

Introduction to African American Studies

Level: Introductory

Target Grades: 9-10

Length: One Semester

Opportunity for College Credit:
No

GPA Boost: None

Funding: State Supported

Availability: Any District

Curriculum: Crafted by Each District

AP African American Studies

Level: College-Level Preparatory

Target Grades: 11-12

Length: Full Year

Opportunity for College Credit: Yes!

GPA Boost: Yes (for admission and scholarships)

Funding: Eligible for state funding if approved

Availability: Available to all districts if approved

Curriculum: Crafted by CollegeBoard after two-year pilot and experts in the field



Both courses are worthwhile and should be taught. Still, it is important for Georgia students to have the option to take the AP course, and not be denied access to the opportunities and credit it offers.

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